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TENTH UNITED CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	*Page*
INTRODUCTION	1-5	2
I. FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE	6-9	3
II. VIEWS OF COUNTRIES ON THE TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS	10-72	4
A. Organizational aspects	10-21	4
B. Substantive aspects	22-63	6
C. Topics for the workshops	64-72	11

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		Paragraphs	*Page*
III.	VIEWS OF RELEVANT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES	73-96	12
IV.	VIEWS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	97-102	17
V.	VIEWS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	103-115	19
VI.	ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME NETWORK AND VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTES	116-124	21
VII.	PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS	125-142	25
	A. Functions of the Tenth Congress	125-126	25
	B. Substantive preparations	127-130	25
	C. Organizational arrangements	131-141	26
	D. Rules of procedure	142	28
VIII.	CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION	143-145	28
Annex.	Substantive topics of past congresses		30

INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, entrusted the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice with the function of preparing the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. Such congresses have served as global events and worldwide forums, influencing national policies, mobilizing public opinion, recommending lines of action at the national, regional and international levels, and focusing attention on major issues of concern to Member States and the professional and scientific community.

2. In initiating the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Secretary-General in 1995 solicited the views of all Governments and submitted a report to the Commission at its fifth session containing a preliminary assessment of the Ninth Congress, as well as preliminary proposals for the Tenth Congress received from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Holy See, Qatar, Spain, Thailand, Turkey and United States of America (E/CN.15/1996/15). After having considered the report, the Commission adopted resolution 5/1, in which it invited all States that had not yet done so to respond by 15 December 1996 to the Secretary-General's request for their views on the theme, agenda items, workshop topics and possible venue of the Congress, and requested the Secretary-General to invite also the views of relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and to summarize the views received for consideration at its sixth session.

3. As at 31 January 1997, 21 States had responded, including some that had already provided their views previously (Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and United States); 12 agencies and programmes of the United Nations system (United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights/Centre for Human Rights, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Tourism Organization (WTO)); 4 intergovernmental organizations (Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) and Organization of African Unity (OAU); and a number of non-governmental and professional organizations.

4. The following four institutes had also responded: United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the United Nations, Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences and International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.

5. The present report is submitted to the Commission for its consideration in order for it to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the organizational and substantive preparations for the Tenth Congress. Following an overview of the assessment of past experience in the preparations for the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held at Cairo from 29 April to 8 May 1995, made by the Commission at its fifth session, the report outlines the suggestions made regarding the substantive and organizational arrangements for the Tenth Congress, including proposals for its theme, agenda items and workshop topics. The report should be considered in conjunction with the previous report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/1996/15), which will be made available to the Commission.

I. FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

6. The Commission's attention is drawn to paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of the report of the Secretary-General, which contain a preliminary assessment of the Ninth Congress made by the Commission during its fourth session. At its fifth session, the Commission provided further assessment and made concrete suggestions for the preparations for the Tenth Congress. The general view was that both the plenary meetings and the new format of the congresses, together with the greater role given to workshops, had increased the usefulness of the congresses as a forum in which to share experiences and know-how. It was suggested that future congresses should include a high-level segment at the beginning of their proceedings reserved for ministers of State and other representatives of high rank. The number of workshops should be reduced and their objectives should be more clearly defined. Also, the status of the ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits should be reviewed in order to ensure their integration into the activities of the Congress.

7. General satisfaction was expressed with the new format and method of organization of congresses as forums for the exchange of information and the identification of new trends in crime prevention and criminal justice. Emphasis was placed on timely preparations for future congresses, including an early decision on the venue, content and structure of the Tenth Congress. This would provide Member States with a better opportunity to prepare for it. Contributions from Member States should be submitted several months ahead of the Congress, thus allowing other Members sufficient time to acquaint themselves with their content. It was suggested that a review should be made of the status of the regional preparatory meetings, the recommendations of which were supposed to be carefully considered by the Commission as the preparatory body for the congresses. Such meetings, as indispensable forums for discussing regional experiences, should be fully utilized and their results should be given adequate attention.

8. Reference was made to the importance of complying with rule 28 of the rules of procedure for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders (Economic and Social Council

resolution 1993/32, annex) on the four-month deadline for the submission of draft resolutions. The method for considering draft resolutions should be reviewed, for example, by having one forum to consider all the draft resolutions before their adoption in plenary or by dividing the draft resolutions among the committees on the basis of their substantive expertise. It was suggested that the number of draft resolutions should be reduced as much as possible. It was noted that it was not appropriate to adopt resolutions within the framework of workshops, since such a procedure would be a deviation from the four-month rule as provided for in the rules of procedure.

9. The workshops were seen as the highlight of the Ninth Congress and satisfaction was expressed with the way Member States had contributed to that success. The workshops had been in line with the emphasis the Commission had placed on the discussion and demonstration of practical matters. They should deal with topics of interest to developed and developing countries alike, should take a multidisciplinary approach, should actively involve entities with different areas of expertise, should identify recent trends and emerging issues, should stimulate solutions to identifying problems and should seek to achieve a multiplier effect. It was noted that there was great value in the contribution of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network and individual experts. Workshops could be organized by any interested parties, including Member States, non-governmental organizations or institutes, which would allow the presentation of different perspectives on the issue under consideration. It was also agreed that not only should agenda items and workshop topics be precise and focused, but their number should also be reduced.

II. VIEWS OF COUNTRIES ON THE TENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

A. Organizational aspects

10. Belarus suggested that in the interest of enhancing the practical and scientific value of the Congress, it would be advisable, during the preparatory period, to organize meetings with a practical focus, including working group sessions dealing with specific aspects of the main topics under consideration. In particular, a research workshop should be devoted to the discussion of problems associated with the development of unified legislative texts.

11. Bulgaria emphasized that the format of the Ninth Congress had been extremely successful and should be maintained. The organization of exhibitions and demonstration workshops had been very useful for the specialized bodies of all countries.

12. Canada referred to its suggestions contained in paragraphs 22, 23 and 24 of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/1996/15). It reiterated the view that the workshops should fulfil five objectives: (a) to deal with items of interest to both developing and developed countries; (b) to be multidisciplinary and display a balance among the various disciplines (law, police, corrections and social services) and entities (Member States, interregional and regional institutes and non-governmental organizations) interested in the criminal justice system; (c) to endeavour to identify emerging issues; (d) to stimulate discussion, rather than rely upon prepared speeches, by being oriented towards practical problems and solutions; and (e) to have a multiplier effect in stimulating work that would continue after the Congress.

13. Chile placed emphasis on the need for the Congress to hold research and demonstration workshops centred on current trends and issues in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in order to maximize their practical and scientific value, so that a multiplier effect could be achieved in terms of generating practical applications after the Congress. Efforts should be made to ensure that non-governmental organizations,

specialized institutes and individual experts contributed to and were more involved in the deliberations on substantive items. As regards draft resolutions submitted by Member States, the Tenth Congress should give priority to quality of resolutions rather than quantity and should avoid repetition of pronouncements adopted in bodies such as the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the General Assembly.

14. Cuba noted that the formulas adopted in organizing past congresses had generally been distinguished by their variety. As a result, countries had prepared draft resolutions and statements without being in possession, in advance, of the precise information needed to do so. It would be helpful if States could receive the documentation for the Congress with more time to spare, so that the discussions could be focused on agreed objectives, based on the proper elaboration of the views and presentations of each country. It would also be helpful to reassess both the relationship between the Commission and the congresses, in order to assist the work of the latter, and the formulation of opinions, decisions and resolutions, in the light of the generally accepted need for greater democratization of the United Nations. Similarly, steps should be taken to enhance the organization and work of the regional groups. In many regards, the examination of matters relating to the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders had a specifically regional dimension, with the different regions experiencing their own particular problems and trends; an effective approach to crime prevention should therefore be based primarily on the special features and requirements of each region.

15. Regarding the workshops, Cuba stated that the inclusion of workshops in the work programme of the Congress might be useful if they were based on the following premises:

(a) The workshops should relate to topics chosen for the Congress and should be of an appropriate number to enable countries to take part, in particular those with small delegations;

(b) The proposed topics should be made known far enough in advance to enable countries to indicate whether or not they were interested in the proposed workshops;

(c) The names of the experts participating in the workshops should be known in advance, in order to give countries the opportunity to propose others or to suggest alternatives.

16. Ecuador expressed its agreement with the initial organizational and substantive arrangements for the Tenth congress.

17. Finland stated that in the light of the experience gained from the Ninth Congress, the most important part of which seemed to be the work of experts in the form of workshops, most attention should be paid to the further development of workshops when the Tenth Congress was being prepared. Their number could be reduced and their topics should cover different areas of criminal justice in order to attract as many participants as possible.

18. Japan stated that the agenda items for the Tenth Congress should be discussed and decided upon by the Commission. In as much as the proposed agenda items were not specific enough to promote in-depth discussion, stronger efforts should be made to focus and refine all agenda items of the Congress and to limit their number. The four-months rule regarding the submission of draft resolutions should be observed carefully. Japan noted that at the Ninth Congress the rule had not been strictly adhered to, which the Government of Japan considered inappropriate. Omnibus resolutions should be avoided as much as possible, because each delegation could hardly discuss specific issues in depth, based on omnibus draft resolutions. Each draft resolution should deal with a single, specific issue. In addition to the plenary and two committees, several informal consultations were held in parallel, which had made it difficult for delegations to follow the discussions on each draft resolution adequately. In order to avoid such a practice at the Tenth Congress, the Government of Japan considered it necessary either that the schedule and management of informal consultations be improved or that the schedule for such consultations be circulated. The number of workshops should be limited to one per agenda item. Furthermore, it was inappropriate to adopt any recommendations in the workshops, because this would

in effect violate the four-months rule. Once a decision had been made on the agenda items of the Congress, the theme of the workshops should then be discussed and decided upon by the Commission.

19. Mexico proposed that the Tenth Congress should have no legislative functions and that any recommendations emanating from it would serve to support and assist countries in the formulation of new crime prevention programmes capable of effective implementation, taking into account the strategies employed by those countries which had achieved clear and satisfactory results in reducing the incidence of crime. The contributions to the general discussion should be more than a series of statements by Member States and a forum should be provided for expounding on the problems facing Governments, as well as on the assistance made available at the national level for solving problems regarding crime prevention programmes, thereby stimulating debate and focusing on practical solutions rather than abstract theorizing. Mexico also pointed out that most working meetings examined legislative aspects and that, although it was true that that helped to improve future legal provisions, it was also true that each individual State had a stock of legal provisions that had been built up by virtue of that nation's own development. Accordingly, it was impossible to apply or seek to implement a legal rule of one country in a country that was not at the same level of cultural, social, political and economic development. Furthermore, Mexico was of the view that, during the Tenth Congress, high-level meetings, as suggested by some countries, should be organized, to take place on the final days of the Congress, as the plenipotentiaries could then approve any proposals and undertakings on specific topics of interest.

20. The Philippines was of the view that fewer workshops should be held during the Tenth Congress, focusing on case-studies presented by country delegates. It stated that it did not support the proposal for a high-level segment, but recommended the advance submission of draft resolutions.

21. The United States of America reiterated its views as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General by proposing that the Tenth Congress not be a legislative forum but an educational one for exchange of information and experience, with the outcome being a declaration. It noted that so much time had been spent during the Ninth Congress in negotiating and drafting the text of various resolutions that many delegations, including that of the United States, had been unable to participate effectively in the many valuable workshops and discussions that had taken place. That situation had severely undermined the focus of the Congress on practical activities and information exchange. A single declaration summarizing the activities of the Congress at its conclusion would greatly enhance its educational and practical value. That declaration would be a more concise statement of the findings of the Congress than the rapporteur's report, but it would not call directly for action by the Commission. Any substantive resolutions based on activities or discussions at the Congress should be left to the next session of the Commission to formulate.

B. Substantive aspects

1. Theme

22. Canada proposed that the theme of the Congress could be "Keeping pace with globalization and new technologies: a plan of action for the twenty-first century". That theme, which reflected in part what had been proposed at the fifth session of the Commission, went further, in that it referred to what would be two of the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Philippines suggested the theme "A revitalized criminal justice system towards the twenty-first century". (See also the proposals made by organizations on possible themes in chapters III-VI.)

2. Agenda items

23. A summary of the views of countries on possible subjects for inclusion in the agenda of the Tenth Congress, regrouped under main headings, is provided below.

Combating transnational crime

24. Argentina reiterated its suggestion (see E/CN.15/1996/15, paras. 32 and 33) of including items on the links between organized crime and terrorist crime and on international traffic in children.

25. Austria recommended the development of measures to combat transnational organized crime with due regard to the possible links between organized crime and terrorist crime.

26. Belarus shared the views expressed by certain other countries regarding the inclusion of an item on the links between organized crime and terrorism and supported the suggestion to consider the inadmissibility of offering asylum to international criminals. The Government of Belarus was of the view that consideration should be given to the study of the theft of motor vehicles as a widespread problem, so as to determine whether or not trends might be discerned indicating the need to take coordinated action to combat that form of crime. Equally important was the examination and combating of various types of computer crime, terrorism, and illicit traffic in arms and radioactive materials and their components.

27. Bulgaria considered that the problems of transnational organized crime, terrorist crime, crime prevention and improvement of criminal justice were very serious and should be the subject of detailed discussion at the Congress.

28. Canada was of the view that one of the major agenda items should be contemporary forms of crime, including in particular, computer crime, credit card crime, telecommunication crime, crimes committed on the Internet and other new forms of crime. The issue of links between transnational organized crime and terrorist crimes should not be discussed at the Tenth Congress and Canada would caution against the connection of these two very different phenomena of organized crime and terrorism. There was a significant difference between them as the political element of terrorism was lacking in organized crime. A discussion focused on transnational organized crime would be more advisable and useful, especially if it dealt with practical measures that would help law enforcement officials in preventing and controlling the phenomenon. Canada would support the idea put forward at the Eleventh Coordination Meeting (see chapter VI) to have a presentation on the state of crime to set the tone for the Tenth congress.

29. Chile was of the opinion that efforts should be made to promote improved extradition procedures, practical measures and the exchange of data, together with the exchange of information and experience relevant to cases of drug trafficking, money-laundering, illegal migrants, violent crime and terrorism.

30. Finland recommended that the Congress give priority to crimes of an international character.

31. Greece suggested that the following issues should be included in the agenda of the Tenth Congress: (a) efforts to reach a commonly accepted definition of organized crime; (b) consideration of the need to draw up and sign an international convention on the fight against organized crime, which would include detailed provisions regarding international police and judicial cooperation; (c) money-laundering and other financial crimes posing a threat to financial transactions and to the foundations of democracy, including the development of legislative and preventive measures, to reduce the scope of activities of criminal organizations and the vulnerability of certain legal markets to criminal infiltration; (d) development of an international convention against corruption; (e) the fight against terrorism; (f) illegal trafficking in weapons; (g) illegal migration; and (h) the fight against illegal traffic in nuclear substances.

32. Japan was not in favour of including the issue of links between transnational organized crime and terrorist crime, as called for in paragraph 11 of section II of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/27. In its view, differences existed in many aspects between transnational organized crime and terrorist crimes, such as motive, background, membership of the organization and form of offence. It would therefore be inappropriate

either to examine these two categories of crime as closely related or to draw up common countermeasures against them. Japan proposed the inclusion of an item on the promotion of extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

33. Lebanon suggested the inclusion of an item entitled "State-organized criminality".

34. Mexico recommended the inclusion of an item on transnational organized crime and suggested that specific measures be implemented with a view to preventing some States from serving as a refuge for criminals, by providing mechanisms to improve their particular extradition systems.

35. Morocco recommended a number of topics as possible themes, including trends in the phenomenon of organized crime; problems encountered in the field of organized crime prevention; strengthening technical cooperation for an in-depth study on the structures of criminal organizations; and an information network on the fight against criminality. Regarding substantive agenda items, Morocco suggested the inclusion of: (a) smuggling as a factor in international criminality and its consequences for developing countries; (b) crimes committed in reaction to massive immigration; and (c) the Internet and its negative impact.

36. Saudi Arabia proposed the inclusion of the following topics: (a) dumping of chemical and radioactive wastes in the territories of other countries, whether by States, artificial persons or individuals; (b) illegal migration; (c) failure to depart from a country by certain nationals of other countries, after having achieved the purpose for which they came into the country, such as performing religious rites, working or for other reasons; and (d) the need to develop mechanisms for the utilization and application of the basic principles of justice for victims of crime.

37. Turkey, in addition to its previous suggestions (see E/CN.15/1996/15, paras. 35 and 41), recommended the inclusion of exchange of information on organized criminal groups and on international cooperation in the inspection of crime scenes, evidence gathering and criminal techniques.

38. The United States reiterated its suggestions (ibid., para. 37) that the Tenth Congress should pay particular attention to combating international crime, noting that no country should serve as a safe haven for international criminals. The Congress should focus on practical measures to ensure that fugitives were apprehended and prosecuted no matter where they went by recommending measures to improve extradition procedures and, when appropriate, to facilitate the various alternatives to formal extradition. Financial disclosure, transparency and accountability were the most effective means available to combat global money-laundering and to enhance the soundness of financial institutions. The Congress should address practical measures in that area and focus on other mechanisms to deter, detect and prosecute money-laundering and financial crime.

Crime prevention and implementation of United Nations standards and norms

39. Austria reiterated its proposals (ibid., para. 40) to include an agenda item on the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in the promotion of human rights and democracy.

40. Chile recommended the inclusion of an item on public safety and social participation, crime prevention and the role of criminal justice in relation to citizen participation, the rights of persons and democracy, and strategies for dealing with the problem of inadequate security for citizens. Chile stated that crime prevention and criminal justice were priority areas of work for the Government because they were directly related to the question of the security of citizens and the modernization of criminal justice proceedings. It could contribute, during the preparatory stage and at the Tenth Congress itself, to work on the proposed topics and assist in the organization of suitable regional activities in preparation for the Tenth Congress.

41. Cuba was of the view that the Tenth Congress should include in its agenda items on:

(a) Contemporary forms of crime and ways of dealing with them effectively: the role of international cooperation in the fight against crime;

(b) Crime prevention and criminal justice in relation to development:

(i) Interaction between limitations on development and crime, including the economic crisis and its impact on social standards of behaviour and ways of dealing with it;

(ii) The national economy, cultural heritage and criminal law: protection of economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) The treatment of prisoners:

(i) Social, legal and economic difficulties, including the development of policies to overcome them;

(ii) Principles or standards relating to the treatment of women prisoners;

(iii) Principles or recommendations regarding post-custodial treatment and social reintegration;

(iv) The role of the social organization in the reintegration of ex-prisoners.

42. Greece recommended two items:

(a) Establishing and using strategic crime analysis as an important tool for the prevention of crime and for the planning of essential and long-term crime policy;

(b) Computerization of all the services dealing with the prevention of crime at the national level, with a view to better use of data and the exchange of information at both the national and international levels.

43. Japan proposed the inclusion of an item on enhancement of the efficiency of the social and legal controls aimed at preventing serious and most heinous crimes.

44. Mexico proposed that a topic on the role of crime prevention be included in the agenda of the Tenth Congress, as it was a priority issue for every State. The level of crime in each country could be reduced only if the preventive methods used were effective, through non-penal measures. Experience showed that an increase in penalties for offenders did not necessarily mean a proportional reduction in the incidence of crime and that, consequently, following the recommendation of the Ninth Congress, it was necessary to take greater preventive and less repressive action.

45. The Philippines recommended the inclusion of an item on crime prevention and implementation of United Nations standards and norms.

Improvement in the administration of justice and the rule of law

46. The Holy See reiterated its proposals contained in paragraphs 38 and 42 of the report. Further suggestions included the introduction and further development of alternatives to imprisonment aimed at the rehabilitation of offenders into society and the consideration of the problem and quite extensive use in some countries of preventive incarceration.

47. Turkey also reiterated its proposals (ibid., para. 41) of including a topic on improvements in the administration of justice, since efficiency in the administration of justice had an essential role to play in the fight against crime and consequently in the promotion of the rule of law. Computerization of the criminal justice system, electronic information exchange and collection and analysis of criminal justice data were key elements in that process. In that respect, the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network should be further strengthened.

Violent crime and the protection of women and young people

48. Austria was of the view that the Tenth Congress could make a contribution to some of the priority themes being discussed by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in particular a draft plan of action on the elimination of violence against women.

49. Canada recommended that violence in society should also be one of the agenda items. The issue of violence against women and children should be dealt with under that item.

50. Chile recommended that the substantive priority topics of the Congress should include international instruments and practical cooperation measures for the protection of vulnerable groups in social sectors, including women, young people, minors, ethnic minorities and groups in danger of falling into crime.

51. Cuba recommended the inclusion of an item on justice relating to juveniles and women in the twenty-first century: juveniles and women as victims of crime - formulas for protecting them in the context of international cooperation.

52. Greece suggested the inclusion of a topic on sexual exploitation of minors, emphasizing that the young were the future and hope of society.

53. Italy stated that the ever-increasing attention paid to problems relating to minors made it necessary to submit concrete actions intended to protect and foster the individual growth, development and socialization of minors and to promote useful actions intended to prevent the recruitment of minors for criminal activities.

54. The Philippines recommended the inclusion of the following topics: (a) children as victims and perpetrators of crime; (b) elimination of violence against women; (c) regulation of firearms for purposes of crime prevention and public safety; and (d) violent crimes.

Migration and crime

55. Austria reiterated its suggestion to include a topic on migration and criminal offences (criminal offences in reaction to large-scale immigration; migrants as perpetrators of crime; migration triggered by criminal offences, such as human rights abuses; and trafficking in migrants).

56. Mexico recommended the inclusion of an item on migration and crime.

57. The Philippines proposed the inclusion of an item on migration and crime.

Technical cooperation and coordination of activities, including the role of criminal justice assistance in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction operations

58. Argentina reiterated its proposal to include an item on technical cooperation and advisory services.

59. Austria again suggested a topic on the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction operations.

60. Chile recommended the inclusion of an item on technical cooperation and coordination of activities among international, intergovernmental, regional, national and private organizations with a view to providing advisory services and the implementation of training programmes and practical technical cooperation among countries in the areas of criminal justice and data processing.

Corruption and bribery

61. The United States reiterated its suggestion (ibid., para. 50) to include a topic on combating corruption by criminalizing bribery. In its view, the Tenth Congress should address the problem of corruption in all its forms, focusing on practical changes in criminal law and administrative practices to eliminate corruption from law enforcement, public contracting and benefits and from government institutions.

Other topics

62. Mexico proposed the inclusion of an item on crimes against monuments and archaeological, artistic and historical sites, which constituted an assault on the historical heritage of nations and, in specific cases, the common heritage of mankind.

63. The Philippines proposed the inclusion of an item on environmental crimes.

C. Topics for the workshops

64. Belarus suggested that a workshop be held on the international legal basis for seizure of stolen motor vehicles by law enforcement agencies.

65. Bulgaria was of the view that special attention should be paid to computer crime and to training in the discovery of such crime. In its view it was relevant that a workshop be organized during which the fastest and most effective investigation procedures of different kinds of crimes could be presented at a comparative level. The problems of evidence and evidence gathering, as well as the protection of witnesses and magistrates, also deserved priority attention.

66. In view of the interest in the ongoing United Nations international study on firearm regulations, Canada was of the view that a workshop could deal with two or three specific issues relating to firearms, including enhanced cooperation in terms of exchange of intelligence, the development of model regulations on firearms and a model import/export certificate. Given the concerns about the growing prison population and the associated costs in most countries in the world, there could be broad interest in having a workshop on alternatives to imprisonment and the issues surrounding de-incarceration (needs, benefits, challenges and paradigm shifts within all facets of the criminal justice system). One of the components of the workshop could deal with youth crime and restorative justice models (family group conferencing, community accountability conferencing). Canada also suggested the inclusion of another topic on the elimination of violence against women. The workshop could consider how measures, strategies and activities could be put into practice from a criminal justice perspective in terms of training practitioners, working with perpetrators and responding to the needs of victims. Finally, Canada recommended another workshop dealing with crime prevention and, more specifically, the partnerships that had to be put in place at the local, national and international levels. The issue of preventing crimes being committed by youth could also be addressed in that workshop.

67. Chile recommended that it would be of particular interest to hold a workshop on the application of theoretical and practical models to enhance the security of citizens in urban areas and in the marginal sectors

of society. In that context, an attempt could be made to promote and develop consensus conclusions on conceptual definitions, the development of prevention strategies that would include and promote the participation of the social agents and of the community in general (social integration strategies), and the devising and application of models concerning coordination with police officers and state officials responsible for the prevention and control of common delinquency, drug trafficking and environmental crime. In short, emphasis should be placed on designing and exchanging experience on strategies and modalities for the solution of the problem of insecurity in large urban centres, rather than on a study of the factors and causes leading to the appearance of violent and criminal conduct.

68. Finland was of the opinion that the topics of the workshops should cover different areas of criminal justice in order to attract as many participants as possible. They might include the prevention of crime, the different types of offences, the position of victims and the sanctions for offences. When deciding on which types of offences should be treated, priority should be given to crimes of an international character.

69. Germany was in favour of the item already proposed on crime prevention, noting that the discussions in workshops should be conducted against the background that, as some countries had undertaken numerous measures of crime prevention, additional questions had emerged that related to the elaboration of a concept of crime prevention, as had issues pertaining to regional and international cooperation, interaction of penal law policy and crime prevention, as well as legal aspects, including the protection of human rights.

70. Mexico recommended the inclusion of the following topics: (a) analysis of exogenous and/or endogenous causes of crime; and (b) effective information sharing on obstacles encountered by States in applying their crime prevention programmes, the means used by them to encourage the community to acquire a genuine culture of prevention and the responses of society to such programmes and its expectations.

71. Morocco recommended the following topics for discussion in the workshops: (a) Protection of the economic universe for viable development; (b) Technical assistance and cooperation related to the creation of correctional and social integration centres for children; (c) Definition of a common strategy for preventing and fighting racial violence and xenophobia; and (d) Technological and economic criminality.

72. The Philippines was of the view that a workshop on victimization of foreigners (visitors or workers) and migrants should be included in the work programme of the Congress.

III. VIEWS OF RELEVANT SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights

73. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights stated that as a very important development, relevant human rights issues had a direct relevance to criminal justice. Accordingly, he and the Centre for Human Rights attached great importance to issues to be considered by the Tenth Congress. Some very important aspects of the human rights programme were linked directly to those issues, in particular criminal justice and the treatment of offenders. The growing international concern at such problems as freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, protection against all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, circumstances and conditions of detention and imprisonment, and humanization of criminal justice were cornerstones of the protection of human rights. In that connection, the High Commissioner supported the proposal submitted by Austria concerning the inclusion in the agenda of the Congress of an item on the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in the promotion of human rights and democracy (E/CN.15/1996/15, para. 40).

74. Regarding the elimination of violence against women, the High Commissioner underlined the importance of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/45 of 4 March 1994 on violence against women and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, and suggested the inclusion in the agenda of the Tenth Congress an item entitled "Use of criminal law for the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women, and elimination of gender bias in the administration of justice and practices".

75. The coordination of activities of concerned United Nations organs and bodies was also suggested as an important topic to be included in the agenda of the Tenth Congress (ibid., para. 7). Consideration of this issue could create an opportunity to conduct debate and recommend that relevant United Nations organs and bodies undertake concerted action in the fields of the independence of the judiciary, the treatment and human rights of prisoners and detainees, violence against women and children, legal measures to safeguard respect for privacy, advisory services, among others.

76. In addition, the High Commissioner also suggested the inclusion of an item on advisory services and technical assistance. That proposal emanated from the need to elaborate common policies further and to carry out joint programmes in the area. It was important that the Tenth Congress provide a forum for discussion between relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations, in order to explore better ways and means of joint cooperation aimed at building or strengthening the administration of justice at the national level.

Economic Commission for Africa

77. Economic Commission for Africa noted that it was generally agreed that the Tenth Congress, to be held in the year 2000, would present an excellent opportunity to look at past achievements in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and to evaluate the crime congresses themselves after half a century of existence.

78. With regard to the structure and format, ECA was of the view that since the structure of the Ninth Congress had been found to be very satisfactory, the Tenth Congress should follow the same organizational set-up and format, continuing in particular the very successful organization of workshops, as begun in Cairo. The format maximized the practical and scientific value of the Congress and emphasized the practical and operational aspects of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. ECA supported the idea introduced at the last session of the Commission to include in the work programme of the Tenth Congress a high-level segment at the beginning of the proceedings reserved for statements by ministers of State or other representatives of high rank. This would enhance the Congress's acknowledged importance as a forum for the exchange of information and the identification of new trends in crime prevention and criminal justice.

79. As to preparatory activities, regional meetings were expected to be held to prepare for the Congress. Those meetings, which were an indispensable forum for discussing regional experiences, should be fully utilized and the results carefully considered by the Commission as the preparatory body for the Congress. ECA recommended that the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders participate in the preparations for and co-host the African preparatory meeting for the Tenth Congress, drawing on the experience it had gained during the preparatory meeting for the Ninth Congress.

80. With respect to the topics for the Congress and the workshops, ECA stated that, as directed by the Commission, the agenda items for the Congress and topics for the workshops and other ancillary meetings should be selected according to the following criteria: (a) the items and topics should concentrate on current trends and issues in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; (b) they should have research and demonstration value; and (c) in line with the Commission's directives, the final selection should include precisely defined substantive topics, which reflected urgent needs of the world community and were in line with the priorities set by the Commission. In that connection, ECA suggested the inclusion of the following topics:

criminal behaviour and victimization, crime control and prevention, and the criminal justice system for technical assistance and cooperation.

81. Under these general headings and taking into account the special concerns of the region, ECA suggested the following topics for discussion by the Congress:

(a) Violence against women and children/protection of minors and women. The Ninth Congress had devoted much time to the issue of violence against women, but there was still a need for more work in that area. The forthcoming Congress could contribute to the further development of a draft plan of action for the elimination of violence against women;

(b) Crime against protected flora and fauna, including illegal trade;

(c) Prevention and control of organized transnational crime. This also was an issue that had received much attention at the Ninth Congress and which could also be addressed by the Tenth Congress. The meeting would be an ideal forum to assess past international efforts to combat organized crime;

(d) The treatment of offenders, including the development of policies for overcoming social, legal and economic difficulties, and the promotion of post-institutional treatment and social integration;

(e) International cooperation and technical assistance. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme had greatly benefited from such technical cooperation;

(f) Improvement in the administration of justice and the rule of law. This would also include the issue of the introduction and further development of alternatives to imprisonment aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society and the elimination of the use of preventive incarceration. The Pan-African Seminar on Prison Conditions, held at Kampala from 19 to 21 September 1996, stressed the importance of introducing alternatives to imprisonment as a means of easing the chronic congestion in prisons in Africa.

82. Regarding the workshops, ECA supported the idea of allocating an equal role to them in view of their proven usefulness as a forum for discussion, demonstration of practical matters and sharing experience and know-how. The workshops, which would be organized or jointly organized by interested parties, including Member States, non-governmental organizations and the institutes comprising the Programme network, had to be fully integrated into the work of the Congress. They should, furthermore, deal with topics of interest to developed and developing countries alike and should involve entities with different areas of expertise. They should be action-oriented and relate to the substantive topics dealt with by the Congress. It was proposed that such topics include indicators of crime and evaluation of the criminal justice response, partnership in crime prevention and the fight against corruption.

83. As regards the venue for the Congress, ECA expressed the hope that the venue and dates of the Tenth Congress would be decided earlier than had been the case for the Ninth Congress. ECA noted that only one of the nine crime congresses held to date had been convened in an African country (Egypt) and it was of the view that holding such an important conference on African soil for a second time would help enhance the continent's image and underline its determination to deal with the serious crime problems it faced.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

84. ESCAP stated that it received a firm mandate from its 61 member Governments to support national efforts for poverty alleviation and the social evils associated with that condition. In pursuing the issue of juvenile delinquency as associated with the poverty situation in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP believed that that issue would deserve continuing and concentrated attention. It therefore proposed that the Tenth Congress include as

a main item in its deliberations a consideration of appropriate, humane means of reducing the incidence of juvenile crime and delinquency, with special emphasis on improving juvenile justice systems.

United Nations Children's Fund

85. UNICEF recommended that the Commission, as the preparatory body for the Tenth Congress, could consider as a possible theme "Children deprived of their liberty, human rights and development" and include children in conflict with the law as a main agenda item with related topics for the workshops. The near universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex) made this a most timely subject for multidisciplinary discussion with a broad number of partners, such as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Subjects for workshops could include the need for advocacy with national authorities regarding the way children were treated by police, courts and correctional facilities, harmonization of national legislation and judicial reform; training of police officers, judges and prosecutors; public awareness of international standards and norms for the treatment of children; and children in prisons and correctional facilities. In addition, UNICEF also suggested the inclusion of the issue of elimination of violence against girls and women in the main programme of the Congress.

United Nations Environment Programme

86. UNEP noted that workshops had been crucial in the exchange of expertise, experiences and information, including the identification of new trends to be dealt with in future congresses and welcomed the new format recommended by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1992/24 of 30 July 1992, which should be taken into consideration in preparing for the Tenth Congress. Its emphasis on a practical, result-oriented approach, with the Congress as a forum for information exchange and identification of new trends through the participatory process, would ensure the fulfilment of the objectives of future congresses. To guarantee that the process benefited from the input of all participants, the rules of procedure would need to reflect this and appropriate time be allocated for each process, as opposed to several activities taking place simultaneously.

87. UNEP was of the view that the Tenth Congress might wish to consider having a special high-level segment geared towards political statements or speeches made by senior government representatives, while other government experts would be working on substantive issues in the relevant working groups. However, consideration should be given to the establishment of as few working groups and committees as possible in order to permit the full and effective participation of Governments with small delegations. The workshop topics could be diverse, depending on specific agenda items finally agreed upon for the Congress. Since the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment and other aspects of environmental crimes had only recently been given considerable attention by the Commission, those issues could be considered as topics for the planned workshops. The Congress would benefit immensely from exposés to be made by different countries faced with such difficulties, which would, in turn, assist Governments and organizations in finding durable solutions to the problems identified.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

88. Habitat suggested that in matters relating to urban violence and crime prevention and access to justice for all the participation of cities and local authorities was essential. In many sectors, such as crime prevention and the treatment of offenders, particularly in cities where an increasing amount of crime usually occurred, local authorities were the closest to the problems and best placed for finding solutions. The cooperation of local authorities in practical issues and workshops relating to the above subjects was therefore essential. This was in line with the emphasis placed on the participation of the local authorities at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul from 3 to 14 June 1996, and on programmes related to urban management during that Conference. The Centre was prepared to contribute technically by providing inputs to workshops on practical issues related to crime prevention at the city level.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

89. UNHCR noted that the streamlining of agenda items and focusing on practical information exchange had been successful at the Ninth Congress. UNHCR would advocate the same approach for the Tenth Congress and support the suggestions related to it. Aspects of organized crime, violence against women and violence in the society, in particular as evident in the alarming increase in xenophobic and racist behaviour in some countries, were all topics that could benefit from information exchange and concerted global efforts and at the same time would address some of the pressing issues facing UNHCR as the refugee protection agency. The aspect of organized crime that would most interest and assist UNHCR in its tasks was organized international trafficking in migrants, which was both an abuse and violation of the human rights of the victims of that terrible activity and had the perverse effect of making countries of asylum less willing and able to accept and deal effectively with the claims of asylum-seekers. In any discussion of such organized crime, UNHCR would urge that States keep in mind not only the treatment of perpetrators of such crimes, but also the effect of the crimes on the immediate victims, those who were the objects of the activity.

90. Regarding violence against women, UNHCR stated that refugee, displaced and asylum-seeking women were particularly vulnerable to the phenomenon. Their experiences should be highlighted in any discussion of the issue. UNHCR would be ready to contribute, using its knowledge and expertise, to the development of laws and practices to prevent and combat the occurrence of violence against women. With respect to violence in society, UNHCR would draw attention to the increasing number of incidents of racist and xenophobic attacks against refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons in many countries. Although prosecution and punishment for such attacks was necessary, the discussion at the Congress should also focus on peace and human rights education and awareness training, which could do much to help prevent such attacks. In that connection, UNHCR had noted the use of new technologies, such as the Internet, to disseminate xenophobic and hate messages detrimental to refugees, asylum-seekers and minorities in general. That new form of criminal behaviour clearly needed to be addressed in an international forum.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

91. UNESCO stated that if the item on crimes against cultural property was not included in the agenda of the Tenth Congress, it would nevertheless be appropriate for the Commission to inform participants at the Congress about the issue of illicit traffic in cultural property and about databases on stolen cultural objects developed by UNESCO. That delicate and complex issue revealed the need for international cooperation to combat such trafficking. Such cooperation should be harmonized, at both the national and international levels, and the Tenth Congress should give an impetus for such cooperation and dissemination of information on those issues.

92. UNESCO supported the general concept of the Congress, which should consider a limited number of substantive topics. Those topics should be related to the most urgent problems, demanding concerted action of particular importance, such as the struggle against transnational organized crime and terrorism, which had a detrimental impact on the full enjoyment of human rights and constituted a serious danger to peace and security, at both the national and international levels. UNESCO noted that the substantive topics of the Congress did not take into account the role of education in crime prevention, in particular through value education, education for tolerance, non-violence, peaceful conflict resolution, as well as education for human rights and democracy. Therefore, UNESCO suggested the inclusion of the following topics: (a) education and crime prevention (or education as crime prevention); and (b) strengthening the struggle against discrimination and violence of a xenophobic nature.

International Civil Aviation Organization

93. ICAO was of the view that international terrorist crimes remained a major threat to aviation security. At its thirty-first session, the Assembly of ICAO had reiterated its policy of according aviation security the highest

priority in its work programme, and the Council of ICAO was continuing its efforts to enhance the level of implementation of the Organization's security programme on a worldwide basis. The International Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation[1] had been widely accepted by States, but further international concerted action was necessary in order to ensure that offenders were prosecuted and, more importantly, that terrorist acts against civil aviation were prevented or reduced to a minimum. While the treatment of offenders against aviation security might be the task of the legal community in the first instance, the prevention of crimes against aviation security required a multidisciplinary approach involving security specialists, police, jurists and other personnel. Accordingly, if the subject became one of the topics of the Tenth Congress, it might be desirable to have inputs from all those different disciplines.

Universal Postal Union

94. UPU was of the view that the organization of workshops to deal with specific subjects was a good approach, as it allowed a better focus and exchange of information between the relevant parties. The Union would welcome an international forum to discuss the prevention of transnational crimes that use the postal services, especially the international shipment of narcotics and child pornography. UPU was committed to the prevention of crime involving the misuse of postal services.

International Maritime Organization

95. IMO had noted the various proposals for the preparations for the Tenth Congress, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, and had no further comments to make.

World Tourism Organization

96. WTO stated that the WTO Statement on the Prevention of Organized Sex Tourism requested States to establish and enforce, where applicable, legal and administrative measures to prevent and eradicate child sex tourism, in particular through bilateral agreements to facilitate, *inter alia*, the prosecution of tourists engaged in any unlawful activity involving children and juveniles. This was one of the issues embarked upon at the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 26 to 31 August 1996. Other topics suggested included the application of extraterritoriality laws, the international standardization of penalties and the age of consent, and conspiracy and incitement to commit sexual offences abroad, among others. As a result, on 28 August 1996, the Congress adopted a broad Agenda for Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (A/51/385, annex) seeking prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and their protection through legal measures. The Stockholm Congress thus required follow-up and WTO proposed that the Tenth Congress help implement the Agenda for Action by including international prevention of sexual crimes against children as one of its topics. As tourism networks and establishments were sometimes used for committing sexual crimes and abuse against children, the tourism sector needed a clear legal framework and procedures in that area. Thus, it would be easier to eradicate the phenomenon.

IV. VIEWS OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Commonwealth of Independent States

97. CIS stated that the Tenth Congress should focus on a number of the most urgent specific topics, which might include efforts to combat organized transnational crime and terrorism. Consideration of the subject should also include the elaboration of measures to prevent all forms of those types of crime. It noted that national criminal law and the law of criminal procedure in that area were characterized by various special features conducive to a tendency to violate the principle of the rule of law and to erode national and

international standards relating to human rights and civil liberties. Those special features included: (a) lack of a clear legal definition of each of the crimes in question; (b) insufficient specificity in the evaluation of the elements of new types of offence relating to organized crime and terrorism; (c) the existence of procedural and administrative measures that tended to diminish the legal rights of suspected and convicted offenders; and (d) active administrative cooperation among law enforcement agencies, investigative bodies, the judiciary and administrative control authorities, which reached beyond the bounds of judicial procedure and made for the infringement of human rights and civil liberties protected nationally and internationally.

98. CIS also noted that, for a number of decades, organized crime had entered into confrontation with the world community and had established a place at the centre of its attention, primarily as a result of transnational movements of drugs. Illicit drug trafficking and the spread of drug addiction had been important factors in destabilizing the economic, political and other dimensions of the life of society throughout the world. The eradication of this scourge called for the elaboration of an effective system of countermeasures, to which end it was important constantly to improve the methods employed to combat illicit drug trafficking by drawing on international experience. In that connection, it would be helpful at one of the workshops to explore the question of developing improved measures against illicit drug trafficking.

99. One problem that continued to be of serious and urgent concern for States members of CIS was the large-scale illegal migration of inhabitants from the Near East and Asia. A large number of criminal groups were taking advantage of the difficult situation in regions that were the scene of international conflicts to organize the illegal smuggling into western European countries of persons seeking to change their place of residence for socio-economic or demographic reasons. In the view of CIC and its members, the topic should be discussed in one of the workshops at the Congress.

International Criminal Police Organization

100. ICPO/Interpol noted that only few countries had submitted their views on the theme and topics of the Tenth Congress. A few of them had proposed practical measures to be implemented at the international level. It had been proved that domestic legislation was the weak point that restricted international cooperation. The Tenth Congress should examine the possibility of preparing international conventions to combat different forms of organized transnational crime. Several resolutions and recommendations on the issue existed calling for the improvement of international police cooperation. That objective could not be achieved owing to the lack of an international legislative framework. The harmonization of national legislation could only be achieved by developing new international legal instruments. Interpol was of the view that it would be a matter of great importance for the Congress to discuss the way various organizations in the area of crime prevention could work better together to harmonize efforts and avoid duplication. There were innumerable examples of wasted efforts and duplication of meetings.

101. As for topics for the workshops, Interpol referred to paragraph 37 of the report of the Secretary-General covering the following subjects: international cooperation in the apprehension of wanted persons, the question of provisional arrest with a view to extradition and extradition and alternatives to it. One of the specific topics to be included should be the issue of default releases of wanted persons for technical or administrative reasons.

Organization of African Unity

102. OAU expressed its agreement with the organizational aspects of the Congress as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General. Regarding substantive topics, OAU was also in agreement with the suggestion made by Canada to include a topic on violence against women, which could be extended to include girls, in particular the case of the girl child. OAU suggested that the issue of violence in society and organized crime, especially in developing countries, could also be included. The issue of technical cooperation and coordination of activities could be widened to cover other areas, including corruption, illegal drug trafficking and so on. The

role of criminal justice advisory services designed to solve problems in developing countries under the coordination of regional intergovernmental organizations in each region was another area of interest to OAU in its efforts to assist African Governments in the fight against crime.

V. VIEWS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

103. The Asia Crime Prevention Foundation suggested the following topics for the substantive agenda: (a) regional and international cooperation against new forms of transnational crime: an agenda for practical collaboration and mutual assistance; and (b) science and technology in the service of crime prevention and criminal justice: meeting the challenge of the twenty-first century.

104. The European Forum for Victim Services proposed the inclusion of a topic on review of the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex), in view of the fact that at the Ninth Congress little consideration had been given to the Declaration. Presently, the European Forum was involved in detailed research on the development of policies, compensation and victims' rights and services, leading to the development of policies on the minimum standards of practice for victim service organizations in Europe. The result of that work would contribute to the substantive debate at the Congress on the implementation of the Declaration.

105. The International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies recommended two topics, organized crime and terrorism, and the criminological approach to organized crime. The Centre expressed its willingness to collaborate with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division of the Secretariat to conduct studies, research and workshops on the two topics.

106. The International Council of Psychologists recommended the inclusion of three items: scientific advances in attitudes toward juvenile victims and offenders, important insights into the prevention of children's involvement in crime and new dimensions of multicultural training manuals for persons working in the criminal justice system.

107. The International Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse noted that the Ninth Congress had been too heavily concerned with legislation and crime and had not focused sufficiently on prevention and comprehensive rehabilitation, not mere treatment of offenders, that is, physical, psychological, spiritual, educational, vocational and social rehabilitation. The International Federation recommended that the theme for the Tenth Congress should be "Prevention-oriented enforcement" or "Prevention-oriented enforcement and comprehensive rehabilitation of offenders". In addition, the International Federation supported the inclusion of the issues covered in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/27 of 24 July 1996, entitled "Implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime".

108. Regarding the venue for the Tenth Congress, the International Federation stated that the Singapore Anti-narcotics Association, a founding member of the Federation and the national non-governmental organization of Singapore in the field of prevention of drug and substance abuse, supported the convening of the Congress in Singapore in the year 2000.

109. Other members of the International Federation also provided views on themes and topics for the Congress and the workshops. In that regard, two possible themes were recommended: "enhanced administration of justice and the rule of law" and "Zero safe-haven for international criminals". As for the plenary and the workshop topics, the International Federation recommended the following topics: (a) global money-laundering, suggested practical measures to combat it; (b) improving extradition measures to deal with fugitives at large; (c) combating organized transnational crime and links with terrorist crime; (d) the ill effects of drug trafficking;

(e) combating bribery and corruption in all forms; and (f) combating violent crimes, such as murder, gang rape with violence, armed robbery and extortion.

110. The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the International League for Human Rights recommended the inclusion of an item on victim restoration as key to ensuring justice, social peace and sustainable development: a comprehensive strategy. They noted that recent world events, such as civil strife and mass slaughter, crimes against refugees and migrants and abuse of other vulnerable populations, demonstrated the pervasive and detrimental impact of victimization. Neglect of the issue jeopardized national progress towards democracy, development and a better quality of life. The increased attention to transnational crime should acknowledge the plight of its victims and mobilize international action on their behalf. A comprehensive, integrative strategy should be adopted for that purpose, to be implemented at all levels. The Congress should recommend the parameters and phased implementation of such a strategy.

111. The Japan Federation of Bar Associations recommended the inclusion of the following topics:

(a) Review of the implementation of the resolution of the Ninth Congress on the practical implementation of the standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners, in particular establishing independent agencies to monitor the state of human rights in detention facilities and a review system of activities of such agencies, as well as the establishment of a United Nations agency for international monitoring of those facilities;

(b) Treatment of foreigners in detention awaiting trial, serving criminal sentences or held in immigration or in other detention facilities;

(c) Protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty;

(d) Development and adoption of concrete guidelines on policy, education and increasing public awareness for the prevention of international and domestic sexual offences, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children;

(e) Abolition of violence against women.

112. The National Organization for Victim Assistance was of the view that the Tenth Congress would be a particularly appropriate forum for the discussion of topics on victim assistance since it would be the stage on which to set standards in international justice for the twenty-first century. Accordingly, the Organization suggested the inclusion of a major item on victim rights and services in the new millennium. Its discussion sessions and presentations might address the following topics:

(a) Integrating victim participation into the criminal justice system: tradition of the past and promises of the future. This topic could address both new victim rights legislation in nations adapting the laws to victim participation, as well as the traditional role of victims as parties in justice processes;

(b) Restoring victims, offenders and communities to harmony and balance. This topic might bring together the new trends in restorative justice from a victim's perspective and compare ways in which various nations and societies had worked out rehabilitation rather than retribution in the justice system;

(c) Where is the victim in the juvenile justice process? The Organization stated that it was clear that at the Ninth Congress the juvenile justice themes only focused on juveniles as offenders and their rehabilitation. While most victim assistance professionals agreed that rehabilitation of young people was a laudable goal, there was consternation among many that victims of juvenile offenders were often deprived of their rights in the process. The topic might allow for more discussion of this issue;

(d) Implementing the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power.

113. In that respect, the Congress should attempt to consolidate and address the efforts to implement the Declaration since 1995, bearing in mind that the year 2000 would mark the fifteenth anniversary of its adoption by the General Assembly. Furthermore, the National Organization for Victim Assistance expressed the view that the Congress should consider a strong resolution on victim assistance in the context of international forums of juveniles, as well as international crisis response. While the Ninth Congress had been unable to address the issue fully, there was adequate time for such a resolution to be formulated, distributed and considered in the year 2000.

114. The Quaker United Nations Office/Friends World Committee for Consultation proposed the inclusion of a topic entitled "Restorative justice for more responsive treatment of victims and offenders, improved conflict management and progress in post-conflict reconstruction". Explanatory background material to the topic would be sent to the Secretariat in the near future.

115. The World Society of Victimology suggested that the Congress should consider the victims of human rights violations, including crime, with special emphasis on, firstly, restorative justice, as being the link between victims of crime and abuse of power and the treatment of the offender. While issues of restorative justice were already dealt with in the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, the field needed further consideration, especially in reacting to the needs of victims and societies in view of civil strife, ethnic conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction of democratically organized societies. The issue of restorative justice was considered to be a key issue in times when neither revenge, retribution and pure deterrence, nor the realities of treatment generally served as effective instruments of social control. The Tenth Congress should also look into the issue of compensation after grave human rights violations, as well as the issue of restitution after the infraction of basic rules of humanity, which still needed further development and recognition. Special emphasis should also be placed on victims in the International Court of Justice: the Congress should consider recommending to the General Assembly the establishment of a permanent international court of justice so that the principles of restorative justice, prevention of human rights violations and the international ban on torture would rule the activities of the international community at the threshold of the new millennium. The normative work of the tribunal in The Hague on the role, the protection and the care of victims should be developed further to promote worldwide the guiding principles of assistance to and justice for victims of human rights violations and for victims of crime and abuse of power.

VI. ELEVENTH COORDINATION MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME NETWORK AND VIEWS OF INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTES

116. The Eleventh Coordination Meeting of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network was organized by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute at Courmayeur, Italy, on 2 and 3 October 1996, in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division and with the support of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council. Among the agenda items discussed by the Coordination Meeting was one on preparations for the Tenth Congress. The meeting concluded its deliberations on the item by recommending the following topics for the workshops, based on suggestions that had already been made by Member States and others:

1. Crime prevention

(a) Early warning of potential conflicts and crime;

(b) Situational crime prevention;

(c) Socio-economic and educational measures and crime prevention;

(d) Partnerships in crime prevention;

(i) The public sector, including policing and other agencies;

(ii) The private sector.

2. *Transnational crime*

(a) Organized crime;

(b) Migration and crime;

(c) Corruption (public sector/private sector);

(d) Terrorism;

(e) International drug trafficking.

3. *Offenders and victims*

(a) Offenders:

(i) Firearms;

(ii) Drugs;

(iii) Women as offenders.

(b) *Victims:*

(i) Domestic violence;

(ii) Child victims.

4. *The system for responding to crime*

(a) The police (public police agencies/private policing);

(b) Courts, including prosecution and probation;

(c) Corrections (overcrowding/alternatives to imprisonment).

5. *International cooperation and technical assistance*

(a) Information and communication;

(b) Training;

(c) Technical assistance;

(d) Partnerships;

(e) Evaluation;

(f) Public awareness of crime and justice;

(g) International cooperation in the operational sense (e.g. extradition and mutual assistance).

117. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute endorsed the recommendations made by the Eleventh Coordination Meeting.

118. The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, shared the general satisfaction with the new format of the Congress and noted that it also shared the understanding that the Congress was in an evolutionary stage and that a number of suggestions for further improvement could be considered. While a decision as to its venue depended on the acceptance of an invitation from a host country, the Centre was of the view that it would be necessary for the Commission, at its sixth session, to decide at least tentatively on the contents and structure of the Congress.

119. The European Institute was of the view that the workshops should be much more specific and practical:

(a) There should only be three or four workshops, of one or two days each. With too many workshops, it would become too difficult to prepare for them and maintain an overall grasp of the Congress;

(b) Topics should be chosen as being practical and relevant, both to developing and developed countries;

(c) The workshops should, as decided by the Commission, have quite clear objectives;

(d) Each workshop should report to the plenary or to one of the two committees.

It was not important for such workshops to produce recommendations but rather to provide an opportunity for general discussion and help in disseminating information. In that regard, the Commission should address the issue of responsibility for the preparation of the workshops and specify which State, institute or other entity had overall responsibility for coordination of the preparation of each workshop.

120. The Institute expressed the view that the decision as to the topics of the workshops was clearly the prerogative of the States members of the Commission. It was hoped that the topics would cover different aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice. One ideal solution would be to have four specific topics, each taken from one of the following issues: crime prevention, transnational crime, offenders and victims, and the response of the criminal justice system.

121. The Institute suggested that the status of the ancillary meetings, symposia and exhibits should be reviewed in order to ensure their integration into the other activities of the Congress. Regarding draft resolutions, the Institute underlined that rule 28 of the rules of procedure, requiring that draft resolutions be submitted four months in advance, was of fundamental importance and that omnibus resolutions should be avoided.

122. The Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences recommended the following topics for inclusion on the agenda of the Congress: (a) migration and crime; (b) technical cooperation; (c) computerization of criminal justice systems; (d) indicators of crime; and (e) organized crime and corruption.

123. The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy was in agreement with the recommendations made at the Eleventh Coordination Meeting (see para. 116 above), namely, the inclusion of major topic areas, such as crime prevention, transnational crime, offenders and victims, the system for responding to crime and international cooperation and technical assistance. The Centre favoured a focus on the theme "International cooperation and technical assistance". Regarding the workshops, the Centre proposed the following topics: (a) women as practitioners, victims and offenders; (b) indicators of crime and evaluation of criminal justice response; (c) corruption; and (d) partnership in crime prevention. In addition, the Centre was of the view that the topic of children as victims of crime and perpetrators of crime should also be included.

124. The International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council made the following proposals:

1. *Present and likely crime and justice problems and concerns: facing the challenges of the twenty-first century*

   (a) The new faces of crime and crime control: crime trends and counter-strategies;

   (b) Anticipating and shaping the future (including some cost projections).

2. *Factors having an impact on crime and crime control*

   (a) Globalization and decentralization;

   (b) Economic hegemony and local community (civil society, solidarity);

   (c) Increasing prosperity and inequality;

   (d) Demographic trends, vulnerability and social strife (ethnic conflicts and crime as a socio-political phenomenon);

   (e) The crisis of values and ethical and cultural relativism;

   (f) Governance styles and management techniques.

3. *Science and technology in the service of crime and crime control*

   (a) Technological advances:

      (i) The supersonic age (facilitating transborder crime and joint countermeasures);

      (ii) The information society: harnessing computer potential (or life on the Internet: for and against crime winning the contest);

      (iii) Managing crime through technological innovation;

   (b) Science as a tool of justice and offender/criminal policy reform:

      (i) Natural sciences: using recent advances as diagnostic and investigative aids (e.g. DNA, position emission tomography (PET), genetic engineering etc.);

(ii) Behavioural science as a guide to criminal deviance and means for its control (e.g. cognitive psychotherapy, psychopharmacology, endocrine therapy for sex offenders, conflict resolution etc.) with due respect for human rights.

4. *Meeting the challenge of crime and justice in a new century*

5. *Public security and social control.*

VII. PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS

A. Functions of the Tenth Congress

125. The United Nations congresses continue to provide a unique global framework within which to work towards common goals, including the needs of developing and developed countries, to discuss national experiences and to benefit from the participation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts. The Tenth Congress will take place 45 years after the First Congress was held at Geneva in 1955. The intervening years have witnessed rapid and far-reaching changes and transformation in most countries, bringing with them social, economic and political advancements, but also criminogenic influences and an increased sophistication of means for committing crime. In paragraph 29 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex), it is stipulated that the congresses, as a consultative body of the Programme, shall provide a forum for:

(a) The exchange of views between States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines;

(b) The exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development;

(c) The identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) The provision of advice and comments to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on selected matters submitted to it by the Commission;

(e) The submission of suggestions, for the consideration of the Commission, regarding possible subjects for the programme of work.

126. Consequently, while the United Nations congresses are expected to continue to play a leading role in the promotion of more effective criminal justice policies and strategies, as a consultative body of the Programme, the Commission is also expected to continue enhancing its own fulfilment of the policy-making role that the congresses had in the past. The experience gained, together with the assessment made of the preparations for the Ninth Congress under the new rules of procedure, in particular at the fourth and fifth sessions of the Commission, will be of great benefit in refining further the functions of the Tenth Congress.

B. Substantive preparations

127. In the past, preparations for the congresses were scheduled as follows:

(a) Four years before a congress was to take place, the proposed topics for the provisional agenda were identified and submitted to the Economic and Social Council for approval. The agenda and documentation for the Ninth Congress were adopted by the Council in 1992. Also in 1992, the Commission recommended the

preparation of draft rules of procedure, which were finalized by the Commission and approved by the Council in 1993 (resolution 1993/32, annex);

(b) Approximately four years before a congress, a discussion guide was prepared for use at the regional and interregional preparatory meetings;

(c) Approximately three years before a congress, the Commission reviewed the progress made in the preparations. For the Ninth Congress, it established a working group, which finalized the programme of work of the Congress;

(d) One year before a congress:

(i) Regional meetings were held;

(ii) Consultants provided contributions and inputs for the preparation of the working papers for the congress;

(iii) The Secretariat finalized the working papers and other relevant documentation, taking into account the results obtained at the preparatory meetings, under the guidance of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

128. The Commission has been empowered to serve as the preparatory body for the Tenth Congress and as such has the responsibility to select precisely defined topics for it in order to ensure a focused and productive discussion (General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex, para. 30 (b)); these are to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for approval.

129. Topics should be chosen in the light of the pressing crime-related concerns of the day, based on inputs provided by Governments and other relevant entities. They should reflect problems that have emerged and new opportunities for action as the international community approaches the twenty-first century. They should also enable participants to make practical recommendations for action at different levels.

130. The discontinuance of the interregional preparatory meetings imposes an additional responsibility on the Commission, which is to consider the topics for the Tenth Congress in depth. In fact, once the topics have been selected, it might be necessary both to conceptualize them properly and to start developing concrete proposals for consideration by the congress. The establishment of a working group with adequate regional representation charged with that task would be of assistance in formulating topics reflecting the concerns of the day. In the past, non-governmental organizations played an important role in the substantive preparations for the congresses. Inter-organizational colloquiums on a single topic have been organized since 1973 by four major non-governmental organizations active in the field. A coordinating committee was also established, which sought to consolidate the contributions of the latter organizations and plan their own international conferences so as to synchronize them with the congress cycle. The expertise of the organizations and the professional community can further enrich the substantive preparations for a congress.

C. Organizational arrangements

131. The organizational arrangements should include a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council on the dates, duration and venue of the Tenth Congress and the regional preparatory meetings. In the statement of principles and programme of action, it is stipulated that quinquennial regional meetings should be held under the guidance of the Commission on issues related to the agenda of the Commission or of the congresses, or on any other matters, except when a region does not consider them necessary.

1. Venue

132. To date, no official invitation has been received from any Government. Two of the previous congresses were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva; of the remaining six, three were hosted by Governments of western European countries, two by Governments of Latin American countries, one by an Asian Government and one by an African Government.

133. Mexico suggested that the Tenth Congress should be held in Japan, as the latter's crime prevention programmes had been commended by the United Nations in 1994 and also because only one congress had so far been organized in Asia.

134. The Philippines recommended that either Australia or Turkey host the Tenth Congress.

2. Dates and duration

135. The dates of the Tenth Congress need to be set in consultation with the host country, if any, as soon as possible after the venue has been determined, so that logistical planning can be initiated. In deciding on the duration of the Congress, the Commission may wish to examine, based on the experience of past congresses, the time needed for the Congress work programme to ensure a thorough consideration of all substantive topics, including the time required for pre-Congress consultations.

3. Documentation

136. Specific recommendations might also be made concerning the number, content, style and timing of Congress documentation, namely, the discussion guide for the preparatory meetings, their reports and working papers and other documents, national statements and submissions prepared by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

4. Format

137. The Commission may wish to consider whether the present system of a plenary session for the umbrella topic and two concurrent committee meetings is suitable for the Tenth Congress. There is considerable merit in the past practice of holding a plenary and two committee sessions, for the plenary meetings have given countries an opportunity to describe recent developments, including both achievements and problems. Written national statements have been found most useful, although not all countries have been in a position to produce them, and the plenary exposés have provided an overview of the situation, supplemented by presentations and statements on the specific topics considered in committee meetings. At the Ninth Congress, special sessions in plenary were held on specific topics, providing an opportunity for participants to debate issues of priority concern. In that connection, the Commission could provide some assistance for national preparations for the Congress, including national statements, and a handbook could be developed with the help of interested Governments. The Commission may also wish to give consideration to the possible organization of a high-level segment of one or two days reserved for statements of representatives at the highest political level, such as government ministers and attorneys-general, as suggested during the last two sessions of the Commission. The segment could be devoted to a specific theme requiring special attention by the international community.

5. Workshops, ancillary meetings and other sessions

138. The research workshops, demonstration sessions and ancillary meetings organized at the Ninth Congress by non-governmental organizations, which also included government representatives, were deemed by most participants very useful and worth expanding. In the statement of principles and programme of action, it is noted that action-oriented research workshops on topics selected by the Commission, as part of the programme

of a congress, and ancillary meetings associated with the congresses should be encouraged (ibid., para. 29 (d)). The less formal proceedings and opportunities for direct interchange have generated wide interest and lively discussion, furthering the professional contacts that many see as perhaps the key function of the congresses and other international meetings. The opportunities for such contacts could profitably be multiplied in a purposeful and structured way, in order to yield the desired benefits and appropriate follow-up.

139. For example, in accordance with the practice at most professional and scientific meetings and the Ninth Congress's ancillary meetings, panels of experts, including government officials, could be used to lead and focus the discussion. While United Nations consultants have served as resource persons at past congresses, scheduled participants and designated experts could constitute panels that would stimulate group dynamics.

140. The organization of more practically oriented workshops, affording those present a chance to discuss problems they had encountered and eliciting suggestions as to how to overcome those problems from other participants on the basis of their own experience proved to be very rewarding. Such problem-oriented workshops could focus on innovative programmes and approaches that might have scope for replication in, or adaptation to, other contexts. As part of the strategy actively to promote technical cooperation, officials and practitioners who have pioneered or are familiar with new programmes and approaches could meet with their counterparts from less affluent countries who are interested in exploring them and could provide the necessary material and/or professional assistance. These could be issue-oriented planning sessions between possible donors and recipients or to consider joint ventures, followed by the development of operational projects to be implemented bilaterally or multilaterally.

141. The network of interregional, affiliated regional and associated institutes, national correspondents, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations could play a truly catalytic role in such an exercise. They could make use of the opportunities provided by the congresses to pursue new initiatives and augment their constituencies actively and interactively. The International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council and its resource groups could help in the process by giving it impetus and coordinating the contributions of organizations and associated experts.

D. Rules of procedure

142. At its second session, the Commission examined the draft rules of procedure for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and elaborated a number of new rules and recommended them for consideration by the Economic and Social Council. In its resolution 1993/32, the Council approved the rules of procedure as recommended by the Commission, which are annexed to the resolution. The Tenth Congress will be organized according to the same rules of procedure unless the Commission decides otherwise.

VIII. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ACTION REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION

143. In his report on the preparations for the Tenth Congress to the Commission at its fifth session (E/CN.15/1996/15), the Secretary-General stated that the Congress could play a catalytic role by providing a new vision and innovative approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice matters. The objective of its format, based on the experience gained from the Ninth Congress, was to maximize its practical and scientific value through problem-oriented workshops, demonstration of different approaches to facilitate technical cooperation activities and collaboration, and special sessions devoted to the discussion of priority issues of direct interest to all countries. As the preparatory body for the Tenth Congress, the Commission was called upon to determine whether the same organizational and substantive arrangements as those made for the Ninth Congress would be adequate for the Tenth Congress or whether alternative arrangements should be explored.

144. The present report complements the previous report of the Secretary-General by reflecting more views received from Member States, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutes concerning proposals for the theme, format, agenda items, workshop topics and venue of the Tenth Congress. It should be noted that the replies contain many insightful comments on organizational and substantive aspects of the Congress that will assist the Commission in its consideration of those matters and of the possibility of making further improvements so as to maximize the benefits of the Congress and ensure its practical orientation.

145. Accordingly, the Commission is expected to make specific recommendations for follow-up by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In particular, it may wish to provide guidance to the Secretariat and take action on the following matters:

(a) Identification of the substantive items of the provisional agenda;

(b) Identification of the topics for the action-oriented research and demonstration workshops;

(c) Specific recommendations on documentation, namely, the discussion guide for the preparatory meetings, their reports and working papers and other documents, national statements and submissions by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(d) A decision on other organizational arrangements, including the holding of ancillary meetings and other sessions;

(e) A recommendation on the resources required for the preparation and holding of the Congress.

Notes

[1]United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 974, No. 14118.

Annex

SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS OF PAST CONGRESSES

First Congress, Geneva, 22 August-3 September 1955

1. Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
2. Selection, training and status of prison personnel.
3. Open penal and correctional institutions.
4. Prison labour.
5. Prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Second Congress, London, 8-19 August 1960

1. New forms of juvenile delinquency: their origin, prevention and treatment.
2. Special police services for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.
3. Prevention of types of criminality resulting from social changes and accompanying economic development in less developed countries.
4. Short-term imprisonment.
5. The integration of prison labour with the national economy, including the remuneration of prisoners.
6. Pre-release treatment and aftercare, as well as assistance to dependents of prisoners.

Third Congress, Stockholm, 9-18 August 1965

General theme: Prevention of criminality.

1. Social change and criminality.
2. Social forces and the prevention of criminality (with particular reference to the public, the family, educational facilities and occupational opportunities).
3. Community preventive action (with particular reference to the planning and implementation of medical, police and social programmes).
4. Measures to combat recidivism (with particular reference to adverse conditions of detention pending trial and inequality in the administration of justice).
5. Probation (especially adult probation) and other non-institutional measures.
6. Special preventive and treatment measures for young adults.

Fourth Congress, Kyoto, Japan, 17-26 August 1970

General theme: Crime and development.

1. Social defence policies in relation to development planning.
2. Participation of the public in the prevention and control of crime and delinquency.
3. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the light of recent developments in the correctional field.
4. Organization of research for policy development in social defence.

Fifth Congress, Geneva, 1-15 September 1975

General theme: Crime prevention and control - the challenge of the last quarter of the century.

1. Changes in forms and dimensions of criminality - transnational and national.
2. Criminal legislation, judicial procedures and other forms of social control in the prevention of crime.
3. The emerging roles of the police and other law enforcement agencies, with special reference to changing expectations and minimum standards of performance.
4. The treatment of offenders, in custody or in the community, with special reference to the implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the United Nations.
5. Economic and social consequences of crime: new challenges for research and planning.

Sixth Congress, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980

General theme: Crime prevention and the quality of life.

1. Crime trends and crime prevention strategies.
2. Juvenile justice: before and after the onset of delinquency.
3. Crime and the abuse of power: offences and offenders beyond the reach of the law.
4. Deinstitutionalization of corrections and its implications for the residual prisoner.
5. United Nations norms and guidelines in criminal justice: from standard-setting to implementation, and capital punishment.
6. New perspectives in crime prevention and criminal justice and development: the role of international cooperation.

Seventh Congress, Milan, Italy, 26 August-6 September 1985

General theme: Crime prevention for freedom, justice, peace and development.

1. New dimensions of criminality and crime prevention in the context of development: challenges for the future.
2. Criminal justice processes and perspectives in a changing world.
3. Victims of crime.
4. Youth, crime and justice.
5. Formulation and application of United Nations standards and norms in criminal justice.

Eighth Congress, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990

General theme: International cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice for the twenty-first century.

1. Crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development: realities and perspectives of international cooperation.
2. Criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures.
3. Effective national and international action against: (a) organized crime; (b) terrorist criminal activities.
4. Prevention of delinquency, juvenile justice and the protection of the young: policy approaches and directions.

5. United Nations norms and guidelines in crime prevention and criminal justice: implementation and priorities for further standard-setting.

Ninth Congress, Cairo, 29 April-8 May 1995

General theme: Less crime, more justice: security for all.

1. International cooperation and practical technical assistance for strengthening the rule of law: promoting the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.
2. Action against national and transnational economic and organized crime, and the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment: national experiences and international cooperation.
3. Criminal justice and police systems: management and improvement of police and other law enforcement agencies, prosecution, courts and corrections, and the role of lawyers.
4. Crime prevention strategies, in particular as related to crime in urban areas and juvenile and violent criminality, including the question of victims: assessment and new perspectives.